

**SITUATION REPORT NO. 3**

**INCIDENT NO. 2003-122**

**DATE: November 26, 2003 Time: 6:00 p.m.**

**TO:** Governor John Hoeven  
State Capitol  
Bismarck, ND 58505

1. NATURE OF DISASTER: Serious Water intake problems at Fort Yates water treatment plant.
2. DEATHS AND INJURIES: No deaths or injuries have been reported.
3. DAMAGES: Water intake problems at the Fort Yates water treatment plant due to intake system being plugged affecting water users in Sioux County to include the communities of Fort Yates, Porcupine and Cannonball.

4. RESOURCES:

LOCAL: Tribal and city maintenance crews, public works and tribal officials are monitoring the situation and providing manpower and equipment to install a temporary overland water pipeline into Fort Yates.

STATE: Staff of the Governor's Office, the N.D. Department of Transportation, the N.D. National Guard, the N.D. Health Department (NDDoH), the N.D. Division of Emergency Management, the N.D. State Water Commission and Indian Affairs Commission have been in contact with tribal officials.

FEDERAL: Agencies assisting include the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) and Bureau of Reclamation.

5. VOLUNTEER ACTION: Media outlets as well as tribal officials are helping distribute information regarding health safety issues.

MAJOR ACTIONS: On the evening of Tuesday, November 25, 2003 crews completed the installation of an overland water pipeline. At approximately 10:00 pm that evening, crews started pumping water and discovered a leak. The pump was shut down to fix the leak. When the pump was restarted, the vacuum pump froze up and would not start. Crews placed a temporary tent with portable heaters around the pump. The crews planned to build a more stable structure around the pump Wednesday.

On Tuesday, November 26, 2003 Morton County Emergency Management began coordinating with Missouri West Water Systems to refill water buffalos with potable water from the Fort Rice Rest Area.

On the afternoon of Wednesday, November 26, 2003 crews restarted the pump and located a leak in a coupler. The pump was repaired and is now operational. The pump will be manned 24 hours a day by Bureau of Reclamation and tribal officials.

In an attempt to locate the water intake screen, the Water Plant coordinated with the contractor who installed the system. The divers were unable to locate the intake but located a cable attached to the intake. The Bureau of Reclamation is attempting to locate a platform or barge to anchor in the river so divers can clean out the intake. They hope to have the barge in place by Friday so divers can begin work on Monday.

The Fort Yates Hospital and Pharmacy have reopened for outpatient services only.

The NDDoH has established a hotline through the Merit Care Ask a Nurse Program. Callers can dial 1-800-821-5167 to receive health care advice during this emergency. This system is providing information to the Division of Disease Control who is monitoring the information for any unusual disease patterns. The NDDoH provided a press release to the Tribal Chairman regarding water safety issues and the 800-telephone hotline. The NDDoH also developed a water safety statement for use as a flyer. The NDDoH has placed laboratory staff on standby to conduct water sample testing as soon as the samples become available.

It has been determined that the Bureau of Reclamation owns the intake system. The EPA has issued an Emergency Administration Order to the Bureau of Reclamation.

The Bureau of Reclamation is transporting a submersible water pump from the east side of the river to Fort Yates. The State Water Commission has located an additional pump and is coordinating with personnel for transport.

6. ASSISTANCE NEEDED: As indicated
7. OUTSIDE HELP ON SCENE: Mor-Gran-Sou Cooperative.
8. OTHER INFORMATION: The N.D. Division of Emergency Management's Situation Reports are posted on the Division's Internet home page. The address is <http://www.state.nd.us/dem>.

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Douglas C. Friez, State Director